MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 23, 2015
7:00 PM

Present: Jane Patton, Chairman, Hugh Daley, Andy Hogeland, Anne O'Connor, Ron Turbin

Absent:

Others Present: Jason Hoch, Debra Turnbull, Elizabeth McGowan, Chris Winters, Ann McCallum, Tom Hyde

1. **CHAIRMANS OPENING STATEMENT**-Chairman Patton wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Her wish was for everyone to be safe and to be kind to one another.

2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES-** Mr. Hogeland made a motion to accept the November 9, 2015 minutes. Mr. Daley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING:** The Board set a public hearing for December 14, 2015 at 7:05 to hear the request from HEA Enterprises, 6 House Pub Restaurant, 866 Cold Spring Road for an increase in LP Gas from 1,600 gallons to 2,250 gallons. Mr. Turbin made the motion to set the public hearing. Mr. Hogeland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

4. **LICENSES AND PERMITS-** Approve License Renewals (See attached list). Mr. Turbin made a motion to approve the submitted renewals. Mr. Hogeland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Patton recused herself from the vote because of her interest in the Hops and Vines license which was included in the renewals.

5. **ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

    a. Approve closing of Spring Street on December 5, 2015 from 3-6pm for the Holiday Reindog Parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Police Chief Johnson also approved a fun run in the morning from 9:30-10:30. The proposed route does not require a police detail. Mr. Hogeland made a motion to approve the street closure. Mr. Daley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

    b. Walden Street Update- Mr. Hoch held his first meeting regarding the Walden Street extension on November 12, 2015. DPW Director, Tim Kaiser, Police Chief Kyle Johnson and Williams College are in

agreement that Walden Street should return to a two way street. The improvements to the street will follow the DPW specifications. The design should be completed in four to six weeks. This change back to a two way street will help the college to make materials deliveries without impacting Spring Street during the bookstore and science center construction. Elizabeth McGowan of South Street also expressed concerns about pedestrian safety due to overflow parking at the Clark this summer. Ms. Patton assured Ms. McGowan that the town will work with the Clark to address this issue in the future.

c. Initiatives Updates (Selectmen)(Initiative Doc)

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTMEN INITIATIVES FOR FY 2015-2016
The Williamstown Board of Selectmen has identified the following initiatives it will undertake for the year FY 2015-2016.
Projects on which the Selectmen will take a **leadership** role:
Adopt and commence implementation of an Economic Development Plan (Hogeland and Daley). The report should be published by the end of November. A list of recommendations should be presented to the board of selectmen on December 14, 2015.

Promote awareness and public education on opioid abuse, including liaising with relevant legislators and agencies (Patton) Ms. Patton attended a conference at MCLA with Wendy Penner addressing strategies for combatting opioid abuse. They will continue to collaborate in their efforts to move this initiative forward.

Develop proposal for use of Spruces land to support funding request for 2016 Town Meeting (Hogeland) The Spruces Land Use Committee Chairman, Tom Hyde informed the board of its intent to apply for a CPC grant to fund design work at the Spruces. Mr. Hyde stated that all projects will follow FEMA restrictions for development in a flood plain. The committee hopes to create formal project designs in 2016 and 2017 for a park to be enjoyed by all residents.

Develop and initiate process for decision on best use of the former Town Garage site on Water Street (Hogeland and Turbin) Mr. Hogeland indicated that this initiative needs further discussion.

Undertake conceptual analysis on costs, benefits and options for deciding whether town should pursue generally available broadband access. (Hogeland) Discussions are ongoing.

Develop conceptual approach for combined public safety facility if feasible, or new police station (Patton). Nothing of substance to report. Ms. Patton is hoping to see the remaining buildings at the Lehovac property demolished after Thanksgiving.

Identify and promote Open Meeting Law training for all town boards (Turbin) Mr. Turbin reached out to all committee chairs with resources through various links on Open Meeting Law training. Initiative complete.

Other projects where Selectmen have less ability to control, but where we will pursue **active engagement** with relevant stakeholders: Support efforts to develop affordable housing on Cole Avenue (Photec site) (O'Connor) Andrew Groff is working with Berkshire Housing and Women's Institute to obtain grant intended to fund the final cleanup of the site.

Work with local partners to maximize benefits from the Town's Cultural District designation (Patton, Hogeland) Chairman Patton signed letters of support for the Cultural Districts pursuit of a grant for mapping, pamphlets and information sharing about Williamstown Cultural Venues.

Investigate and make recommendations to have better recycling programs (O'Connor and Turbin) This initiative requires participation with DPW Director, Tim Kaiser. Priorities for Director Kaiser has put this initiative on hold.

Engage with Mt. Greylock Regional School District process on new or renovated building (Daley) See notes above. The town voted to approve changes to the Mount Greylock Capital Costs Apportionments based on enrollments and property values using a five year rolling average with annual adjustments. The building budget has been submitted to the MSBA. The original estimate of 69.5M has been reduced to 64.5M. The committee is hoping to have shovels in the ground in August 2016.

Engage in any discussions of potential regionalization of school districts (Daley). Regionalization has been tabled.

Advocate with Metropolitan Planning Organization on approval of Water Street upgrade project (Hogeland) The plan has been approved by MPO and we hope to complete the design late next year.

Work with Town offices and stakeholders on implementation of new bylaws on plastic bags and polystyrene. (O'Connor and Daley) The Attorney General's Office approved the by law after removing all fees. The Board of Health has met with local businesses to assess their plastic bag and polystyrene inventories. Business will be allowed to

work through their inventories prior to implementing the new guidelines.

d. Planning Board Vacancy- There will be a joint meeting of the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen to appoint a new planning board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carol Stein-Payne. The meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2015 at 7:00pm in the town hall. This appointee will serve until May 2016.

e. Cultural District Letter of Support-Mr. Hogeland made a motion for Chairman Patton to sign a letter of support for the Williamstown Cultural District in their efforts to obtain a grant to be utilized for creating promotional materials such as maps and pamphlets.

6. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-** See attached and at www.williamstown.net.

7. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST-** None

8. **OTHER BUSINESS-**

9. **ADJOURN**. Mr. Turbin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hogeland. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Daley
Secretary